


Bryan Life

Summer 2004

A photograph of a smiling woman with brown hair, wearing a white t-shirt, holding a young child. The child is wearing a white shirt with colorful patterned sleeves and a matching skirt. They are in a classroom with other children in the background.

Reaching
globally
to make a
difference

INSIDE

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Christ Above All



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The President's Perspective

International Efforts

In the past few weeks the United States and the world have witnessed the passing of one of the great statesmen of our time, President Ronald Reagan. So many Americans as well as world leaders gathered in Washington, D.C., to pay tribute to a man who brought back to the world conscience those immortal ideas of faith and freedom and destiny which so characterized our Puritan forefathers in 1630. President Reagan reminded us often what John Winthrop so prophetically proclaimed as he and our Puritan forefathers disembarked from that small ship, the *Arbella*, onto the Massachusetts shore, that this country would indeed be a city upon a hill, a city which would either attract others to its light because of the purity of her life and mission, or a city which would be the object of God's displeasure. Surely the eyes of the world are upon us today, and John Winthrop's admonitions ring as clearly and true today as they did nearly 400 years ago.

Bryan College likewise has been a beacon of hope for 74 years, a Christian liberal arts college set upon the beautiful hills of Dayton, reflecting the light of God's grace and truth throughout the world. In this issue of *Bryan Life* you will see how God is carrying His light through students and friends of Bryan to many parts of the world even as we establish numerous new opportunities for our students to study abroad and have their vision sharpened for ministering in a global context. This past year has been one of those benchmark years upon which we will look back to see the reflection of a Bryan College whose students shine forth the light of the gospel upon a darkened world.

As we graduated 128 seniors on May 8, we concluded a year in which we entertained three accreditation visits. God gave us resounding victories for each of them, and in so doing called us to nurture a light which will shine brighter and farther than ever before:

- Our wonderful decennial reaffirmation review by our regional accreditation body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, opens the way for us to begin developing graduate programs.
- Our review by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) enables all our students in our teacher licensure programs not only to receive their Tennessee license, but also their license to teach in any of the Christian schools associated with ACSI.
- And for the first time in our history Bryan became one of only seven colleges in the state, public or private, to have an athletic training program approved by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, enabling our graduates to be eligible for full athletic trainer licensure and certification.

John Winthrop said that the eyes of the world would be upon us as a people—"if we deal falsely with our God, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world, but if we love the Lord our God and one another and walk in His ways and keep his commandments, then the Lord our God will bless us in the land." Bryan College is positioned to shine forth a Kingdom light throughout this world which will give all glory and praise to our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As President Reagan courageously called America back to her moral moorings and in so doing engendered God's blessing for our nation, even so Bryan College—in the midst of a Christian community which has seen her light dimmed by not clearly shining forth the truths of our Christian faith—needs to stand firm upon the Word of God, with an unfettered vision, and in so doing witness God's blessing upon His people.

Stephen D. Livesay

Bryan: Reaching Globally



BELIZE



VENEZUELA

to make a difference

“Make a difference in today’s world” is taking on a new meaning as Bryan College initiates two programs designed to make an impact internationally.

A Central European Executive Lecture Series is under way, designed to help introduce free-market ideals to that formerly Marxist region, demonstrate Christian business concepts, and give Bryan students international business exposure.

Meanwhile, finishing touches are being put on a new Bible class, Missions: Foundations and Applications, which will combine academic studies with cross-cultural field experience outside the continental United States. The class begins this fall.

Bryan President Dr. Stephen D. Livesay said these initiatives encourage students to think globally about the vocation to which God has called them. “A significant part of fulfilling Bryan’s mission of educating students to serve Jesus Christ and through that service to make a Kingdom difference is the opportunity that Bryan gives to our students to see that the gospel message is global. I believe it is essential for Bryan to provide and encourage opportunities for our students to understand other cultures

"I'm interested in international business and finance, and this will be a great help to have this experience with Mr. Henson."

— Matthew Ellis

and to interact with those cultures in a variety of disciplines. The new opportunities in Central Europe and Micronesia involve our students both as teachers and as learners, broadening and deepening the understanding of their disciplines in ways not possible here at home, and at the same time giving them an expanded vision with hearts of love and service."

Dennis Miller, Bryan's executive director of external relations and director of the Central European program, said the lecture series began this spring, with a business development center targeted for opening in the fall in the Czech and Slovak republics.

"In April, I went to Central Europe to initiate the first phase of the program," he said. During that visit, Reid Henson, former vice chairman of the board of Coca-Cola Consolidated, lectured in Bratislava and Trnava, Slovakia, on case studies he had been involved with while he was with Coca-Cola and the Hanes Corp.

Mr. Henson lectured at the Slovak University of Economics, Comenius University, and the Business School of Trnava. Later, Steve Sell, a Florida businessman and advisor to the Republican National Committee, visited Brno, Czech Republic, to establish a similar lecture series for Bryan with

Masaryk University. He also met with representatives of Greater Europe Mission and with Chattanooga, Tenn., businessman Dave Nabors to develop a partnership to reach the Czech business community for Christ.

"The few Christian business people in the Brno area have little access to outside help and encouragement," Mr. Miller said. "The lectures from successful Christian business leaders will be an encouragement to those who are trying to live out their faith in their businesses, and will be a challenge to university students to consider the implications of Christian ethics in a free enterprise system."

While respected businessmen have the responsibility for presenting lectures and offering experience-based advice, Bryan students will make their own contributions. In addition to attending the lectures, they will interact with students and spend time with Christian organizations involved in outreach in Central Europe.

"We are in discussions with the Jan Hus Foundation to include Bryan students in its efforts to bring about a better understanding between peoples in the region, with a goal of creating a more civil society," Mr. Miller said. "We also hope to arrange for Bryan students to spend time in major Christian organizations such as SEN, which reaches out to the Slovak intellectual community and runs a significant Christian book publishing operation."

Matthew Ellis, who earned his business administration degree in May, is looking forward to traveling to Bratislava in the fall to gain some insights into business outside the United States.



"To be able to go over with Mr. Henson, listen as he gives different lectures, gives advice, going into businesses and talking with business people, hearing the questions they will ask, this will be an incredible

opportunity," Matthew said. "I'm interested in international business and finance, and this will be a great help to have this experience with Mr. Henson, seeing the world outside of the United States."

Matthew, who is to be joined by Jeremy Pellum, a rising senior, for the trip, said he is waiting until after the trip to seek permanent employment. "I couldn't be better prepared coming out of undergraduate school than I have been; I couldn't have gotten a better education anywhere else. But I know when I get a job I'm going to start learning all over again. I'm ready to get out there and go."

This project has two benefits for Bryan, Mr. Miller pointed out. "One of the trends in higher education in the United States is providing international business education. These programs are in high demand and are very popular with students. Bryan College is not positioned at this time to offer an international business degree, but what we would like to do is to guarantee any business student who attends Bryan the opportunity for an international business experience. The way in which this is structured, our students will benefit and there will be minimal cost to the college, because the costs are being underwritten by interested donors."

Bryan students will have the opportunity to spend a semester working with this project "if they can work out the academic scheduling details," or

"Just going overseas helps students understand that the U.S. is just a small portion of the world, that you don't have to be an American to be a Christian."

– Tim Shetter

to spend a summer or short-term period working with organizations involved in the business development center.

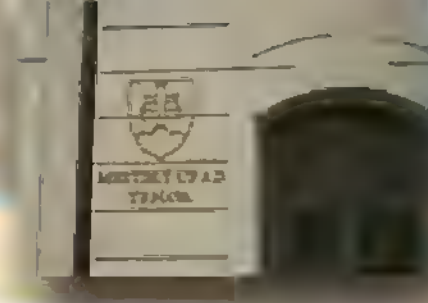
He said this fits nicely with Bryan's worldview emphasis, as this "demonstrates our potential to take our Christian worldview, apply it in an outreach fashion, and help people whose worldview was shaped by an atheistic Marxist culture see that real solutions in life are found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Matt Benson, Dean of Spiritual Formation, is spearheading the new missions course with a vision similar to that expressed by Mr. Miller. "We're on the cusp of actually dealing with worldview – that is, viewing the world," he said. "To this point, we've tended to focus on American pop culture and its influence in the U.S. and the Christian subculture. Now we're asking what are the more fundamental issues that move our hearts and our world."

"In some ways, we are becoming global players, becoming educated about the world. When I came to Bryan (in 1997), I saw the mission statement and thought we could do that in America. But now we're seeing an application in the world."

The new missions class is designed to take students out of the classroom, to "get their hands





dirty," and to apply what they are learning in a missions context. "I want them to see how to their discipline can be used by God. We tend to be very 'boxy' about missions. A student may think, 'I'm not going to be a pastor or a missionary.' I want to take the blinders off. I want students to understand that anything you can do here, you can do 8,000 miles away," Mr. Benson said.

While making missionaries in the traditional sense is not the purpose of the new class, developing "Christians with a global perspective, who will live life in a global way" is. "For some, this is a way God will open their eyes to world missions. For others, it may be the way He changes their plans. But if they want to work for the next 50 years for IBM, but live in a global way, that's great."

Students from nine majors – Bible, Christian education, computer science, education, English, exercise and health science/athletic training, music, biology, and psychology – will begin their semester this fall with a retreat to study missions in the Old and New Testaments, the history of missions, and to begin building a theology of missions. Throughout the semester, they will continue to meet as a group, but also will prepare for special projects for each major.

In October, the 23 students, three professors and Mr. Benson will fly to the U.S. protectorate of Micronesia where they will work for two weeks in cooperation with Pacific Islands Bible College.

Psychology majors, for example, will present seminars on counseling under supervision of a PIBS professor and work with individuals who desire to discuss personal issues. Computer science majors will offer technical and instructional help on Guam and Chuuk. Education majors will serve as teacher aides and tutor children.

"Each group will work in areas to help further the mission of Pacific Islands Bible College," Mr. Benson said. "We want to help build an organization where we go, not just use the organization to learn about the culture. We want to help them grow as we grow."

The host organization also will help evaluate the success of the program. "Part of the evaluation is up to PIBC to say, 'This is how you added value to our program.' We'll be evaluating our tasks, but I don't think we'll see the whole picture for five or more years, as people start living out what we have taught."

The trip to Micronesia is the first step in what Mr. Benson hopes will be a regular program covering all majors and involving faculty and staff across the college. In the Spring of 2005, he hopes to have a similar program in Uganda or India, then "plant" students for the summer in various ministries in Central Europe. "Over the years, I would like to incorporate different faculty and staff so we as a college community become increasingly global- and mission-minded. This can help shape faculty and staff to mentor students, and professors will be able to model in the field what they teach in the classroom."

Tim Shetter, a member of the Class of 1998 who went with Mr. Benson on the first Bryan-sponsored missions trip to India in 1999, is enthusiastic about the new program. That trip dramatically impacted him, he said. "It made me on fire for God. It turned my life around. It made me consider what am I doing while I'm at Bryan, or wherever, how do I impact people around me for God?"

"Just going overseas helps students understand that the U.S. is just a small portion of the world, that you don't have to be an American to be a Christian. It can lead to some of them becoming missionaries or just giving them a desire to further God's kingdom here. It's incredible."

That type of impact is what Mr. Benson desires. "There is a study that shows when students study abroad for five weeks or more, they interact in a deeper way with their studies when they return home. They actually become teachers and influence the culture around them. I think it will be possible to come to Bryan and not leave the United States, but to be influenced by a missions culture." ■

SAYLES, REKOSKE, SAUVE TO COACH VOLLEYBALL, MEN'S BASKETBALL, WOMEN'S SOCCER

Three new coaches will assume duties at Bryan College next fall as the college has filled vacancies in the volleyball, men's basketball, and women's soccer programs, Athletic Director Dr. Sandy Zensen has announced.

Leo Sayles, now youth pastor at Wildwood Baptist Church in East Moline, Ill., will be the volleyball coach, succeeding Jerri Morgan; Donald Rekoske will coach men's basketball, succeeding Morris Michalski; and Mark Sauve, international tour director for the Charlotte Eagles Soccer Club, will coach women's soccer, succeeding Mark Neddo.

Mr. Sayles has 15 years coaching experience at the high school and club level, and has a

volleyball coaching record of 107-81. His teams have produced nine all-state, 18 all-conference, four NCAA Division I, two Division II, and 17 Division III players. He has a number of league and conference championships to his credit. In addition, he regularly serves as a coach and personal trainer for students preparing to play in NCAA Division II and III programs.

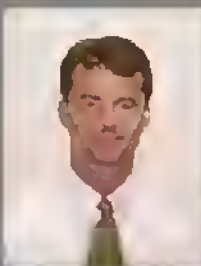
He is a graduate of the University of LaVerne in California, and has done graduate work in education and theology. In addition to volleyball, Mr. Sayles has coached track, soccer and basketball, and has received basketball and volleyball Coach of the Year honors. He and his wife, Tanya, have five children.

Mr. Rekoske has served as head coach of the Crown College in Saint Bonifacius, Minn., for eight years, after coaching for four years at Pillsbury College in Owatoma, Minn. His teams have an overall record of 241 and 147 and have been to six National Christian College Athletic Association national tournaments.

He is a graduate of Maranatha Baptist College in Wisconsin and earned his Master's degree in Athletic Administration from the United States Sports Academy. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children.

Mr. Sauve served as assistant soccer coach at Toccoa Falls College following his graduation from the school in 1996 with a degree in Christian education. He joined the Charlotte Eagles in 2000.

Dr. Zensen said, "We are delighted to welcome these men to the Bryan family. They bring the kind of experience with young people that will help them build competitive teams and, more importantly, men and women of godly character."



BASEBALL SEASON'S GAINS ENCOURAGE COACH

The 2004 season may not have produced as many wins as Bryan's baseball team would have wanted, but Coach Joel Johnson said some important steps were taken this spring.

"We were not as successful as we could have been, maybe not as successful as we should have been," the coach said. "But we won our first series, against Taylor, and all of our victories were against comparable teams, including one that was ranked in the top 25 during the season."

Another first was a victory over Virginia Intermont in the conference tournament. "That was our first win in the conference tournament, and gained a lot of respect from teams and coaches. They saw that we can play well."

A record of 8-45, however, shows room for improvement, and one of the first areas Coach Johnson is addressing is the number of players. "We didn't have enough depth," Coach Johnson explained. "Every time we had to make a change (in the field), it affected another part of the game. Players couldn't just concentrate on one position - they had to be ready to play more than one, and that hurts." Recruiting has been encouraging, leading him to believe that "we could easily have 30 players next year."

From his perspective, there are a lot of positives for selling Bryan baseball to prospective students. "In an established program, when a freshman comes in, he often doesn't get to play until he's a junior. Here, a good player will get an opportunity to play right away," he said. "Our facilities are a plus; we have one of the top three fields in the conference. There's the academic success of the school, and the athletes can see that the school is supporting the program."

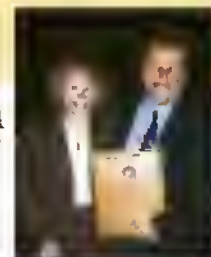
Coach Johnson said Matt Day "had several incredible pitching performances. He pitched a nine-inning complete game against Taylor and won 7-1. In the game at BellSouth Park (the Chattanooga Class AA team's field), he pitched eight innings and had 16 strikeouts. He also praised Taylor Hasty for his 10-inning conference tournament victory over Virginia Intermont.

"This fall, we'll be working on a lot of fundamentals like coverages, relays, techniques. We'll have the pitchers on a strict throwing program, and everybody working on weights and conditioning. In the spring, we'll be in shape and ready to go."



Brooks Walker, 9, congratulates Ben Wharton during the Lions' game at BellSouth Park in Chattanooga.

Dr. Sandy Zensen received the National Soccer Coaches Association of America/adidas National Coach of the Year honors for the NCCAA Division I. Dr. Zensen led the Lions to an 18-3 record, including a string of 15 consecutive wins during the season. His squad finished the season as the runner-up in the Appalachian Athletic Conference. He also was recognized as a National Coach of the Year in 1995, before the NCCAA's association with the NSCAA. Dr. Zensen is pictured with his wife, Sharon, after receiving the award earlier this year. Recently, Dr. Zensen was elected vice president of the Appalachian Athletic Conference.



Graduates look back, look ahead



One hundred twenty eight seniors received 130 degrees during graduation ceremonies May 10, capping a weekend of looking back and looking ahead.

Honored guests for the service were 24 members of the Class of 1954, celebrating their golden anniversary reunion. Class members came from as far away as California to be recognized during the graduation service on the Triangle lawn and to receive golden anniversary diplomas during a luncheon which followed.

Still, the focus was on the newest alumni, beginning with the traditional Vespers service Friday evening.

Anna Hanger reminded her classmates that "we are members of the largest incoming class to date. We are the last class to remember the trailers (which housed classes and offices during reconstruction following the Administration Building fire of 2000). We really value the Ad Building for the Smart Boards. We really value the new library."

She pointed out that members of the Class of 2004 are headed to graduate school, into medicine, education, missions, Christian service in the United States, business, social work. "Bryan College has done its best to prepare us to confront the world," she said.

Ben Williams observed that "we have inherited a world of war, out of which we've been called, into which we are sent. As Christians, we are to love those around us in such as way as to set the captive free."

Class sponsors Michael and Betty Palmer challenged the graduates to continue growing. "God is wanting to use you in your chosen vocation, but have this thought: He wants you to know Him," Mrs. Palmer said. Mr. Palmer added, "Cultivate a profound sense of ignorance. Be a student forever. Cultivate a strong sense of awe and wonder, of compassion, of God's presence. The world is a dangerous place, but an interesting place. We have been called to dance in a minefield."

Bryan President Dr. Stephen D. Livesay closed the service with the traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony, giving each graduate a piece of a red ribbon emblazoned with the Bryan logo. "Thank you each for the wonderful way you

welcomed me to this college," he said. "I know this class will be heard from in years to come."

During the graduation service, the college granted 62 Bachelor of Arts degrees and 68 Bachelor of Science degrees, including one of each to Miguel Ayllon, in communication arts and business administration: management, and to Tim Opelt, in church music and mathematics: computer science.

Miguel, from Lima, Peru, and Melinda Pangel, from Spartanburg, S.C., were presented the P.A. Boyd Prizes for their positive influence on their fellow students. Kendra Laird of Northglenn, Colo., received the Most Progress award, and Toks Olowola of Ogori, Nigeria, received the Faithfulness and Loyalty award.

Nathaniel Isler-Williams of Decatur, Ga., speaking on behalf of the traditional program graduates, told the crowd of family and friends that "Bryan is not about buildings or programs or scoring high on this test or that one. It's about training people to make a difference in today's world to honor and glorify God.

"When all the years have closed around us and we look back over our lives, what will we see? Will we see ourselves as Bryan Lions who entered into today's world and lived as Christ taught? Paul encouraged us in Philippians 3 to keep striving for the goal of the upward call that is in Christ Jesus. We are admonished to know Him above all else. I, too, encourage us to seek to know Him more and more every day, to listen and obey His voice."

Speaking for the Aspire degree completion program graduates, Dan Fry of Dayton, Tenn., said, "I promise you that God has, according to Ephesians 2: 1, good things prepared in advance for you to do during your life. Think about your resume, think about your career, but put His priorities first when you make your decisions."

Twenty-four members of the Class of 1954 returned for their golden anniversary reunion during commencement. They were recognized during the graduation ceremony, and received golden anniversary diplomas from Dr. Livesay at a luncheon following the service.



Miguel Ayllon, from Lima, Peru, and Melinda Pangel, from Spartanburg, S.C., were presented the P.A. Boyd Prizes for their positive influence on their fellow students. Kendra Laird of Northglenn, Colo., received the Most Progress award, and Toks Olowola of Ogori, Nigeria, received the Faithfulness and Loyalty award.



Bryan President Dr. Stephen D. Livesay, right, cuts the commemorative ribbon for the Class of 2004 at the conclusion of the Vespers service. (Photo by Bryan College)





An Amazing Accomplishment: The Kendra Laird Story

Kendra Laird burst into Bryan College's consciousness in October of 1996, when she was critically injured in a traffic accident near her home in Colorado.

Her cousin, Brooke Shepherd Fox, '97, asked for prayer at Bryan for Kendra, who was in a coma in Denver. Many people in the Bryan family began praying for her. On May 8, 2004, many prayers were answered as she marched across the platform to receive her degree in Christian Education.

The accident left Kendra with a brain injury that robbed her of the basic use of her right hand, and changed some of her career plans. "If I had had no wreck, I would have been thinking to graduate with a biology degree," Kendra said. "But the left side of my brain (the side injured), controls all the basics of science and math. Now I just cannot process that information correctly."

She remained in a coma for about three months, and was hospitalized for about six months following the accident. She underwent numerous surgeries and many therapy sessions.

"Because the Lord had gifted me educationally, I only needed four more credits to graduate from high school with my class of '98," she said. Her mother, Sheryl, helped Kendra complete graduation requirements, and turned her sights toward college.

"I had been acquainted with Bryan before my accident," she said. "Bryan's Chorale and Chamber Singers came to Colorado on spring tour in 1996, and my mom and I housed four of the students including my cousin, Brooke. Going to Bryan became a deep desire of my heart at that time, since I knew that my cousin would graduate from this college."

Acceptance at Bryan was a question, however. Because the accident had wiped out most of Kendra's educational memory, she was not able to take the ACT exam Bryan requires. "But my GPA was very high before my accident because God really had gifted me. I graduated with a GPA above 4.0 and that's why Bryan did accept me," Kendra said.

She entered Bryan in the spring of 1999, accompanied by her mother who came to help her. "It was difficult getting back into the swing of school again, since I had finished high school by independent study." When Kendra began at Bryan, her mother was only able to stay a month before she had to return home because of her health. In June 1999, her mother passed

away.

Melody Benson, who became Kendra's educational coordinator, assisted Kendra through much of her college experience. "Kendra has to work ten times harder than anybody else, Mrs. Benson said." When it comes to reading and comprehension, her brain doesn't always click in. She's had to overcome spending many, many hours looking at material and getting it 'encoded,' as she says. For her, one of the hardest things was that she had to work so hard academically she has not been able to spend as much time socially as she wanted.

"The thing I remember is that after her accident she was like an infant and had to learn to walk and talk again. For her to be walking across the stage for her college graduation, is pretty remarkable when you consider that 7 1/2 years ago she couldn't walk. She constantly has the attitude that God has given her this challenge and she wants to bring


Him glory. She has persevered, has continued strong and faithful in her walk with the Lord. She very much wants to be used by the Lord."

English professor Dr. Beth Impson said she has been impressed by Kendra. In her Introduction to Literature class, Dr. Impson said, "I was amazed with her ability to think through and come up with great insights.

That comes from real solid work and perseverance." Since completing that class, Dr. Impson and Kendra's relationship has become more personal. She stated, "I have seen how, despite difficult times, she maintains a cheerful attitude.

"She is so encouraging to me; I walk away from our conversations so convicted and blessed by her relationship to God. That comes out of her unshakeable faith."

Kendra said the encouragement of the faculty and staff at Bryan has been very vital to her success. "They really related to me and maintained me under their wings. Bryan has taken the form of my mom. Bryan has been my safe haven in many of my struggles here at college," Kendra said.

"I thank God my life has been different because it has been for His glory and not my own." With her Bryan degree in hand, Kendra feels called to be a speaker to share God's glory with others and "to share the love of God and the peace that can be found in His abundant love. Even though life is different with the use of my one hand, I am very grateful God chose me for my life's goal, to live every day for His glory." 



Bryan Alumni have a PROPENSITY



Bryan Hill, '71
President of Administration

for following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

In an ongoing effort to invigorate your thinking from your alma mater, I offer you the word "propensity." Propensity is an innate tendency toward something. In this case I have stated in the title of this article that we as Bryan College alumni have a propensity to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I truly believe that this propensity began for most of us before we came to the Hill, but had its flame fanned again and again by the many Godly professors, administrators, and chapel speakers we encountered.

There are not enough words to describe how grateful I am for the professors and administrators I experienced during my undergraduate studies as well as those I get to rub elbows with today. Bryan College is truly blessed. The current roster of administrators and professors is second to none among colleges and universities today.

A few months ago I attended a Fellowship of Christian Athletes fund-raising event in Philadelphia where my daughter, Kimmie, '03, is on staff and was giving her testimony. She called me that afternoon and said the FCA executive who was to give the close and "the ask" for financial support was called away on an emergency. She then asked if I would take his place on the program. Of course I said yes—I mean, how many fathers get the chance to publicly beg for money to get his daughter off his own payroll?

I have always had a *propensity* for athletics so I was *copasetic* with the idea. I really enjoyed speaking to the FCA crowd, combining my love for sports with my love for Christian ministry.

Following the banquet, the eastern director of FCA asked if I had any interest in becoming the director of Greater Philadelphia FCA. I politely replied that I was very happy and excited about my ministry with Bryan College. He then asked me the question Christians ask when they know you are going to say no: "Will you pray about it?"

I shrugged it off until Kimmie and my wife also urged me to pray about the possibility. Well, the Holy Spirit has persistently placed FCA Philadelphia on my mind the past few months. Then I received communication from the FCA board that the new superintendent of

schools for Philadelphia, who is a Christian, gave them a mandate that he wanted FCA in every high school and middle school in Philadelphia. I was astounded. In America today, Christian organizations are fighting to remain in public schools and now one of the largest public school systems in the nation wants a Christian organization to come in.

That same evening, I was reading John Maxwell's book *The Twenty-One Most Important Minutes in a Leader's Day*. In just the second paragraph Maxwell said:

"There are certain windows of opportunity when—if you don't take a risk and move forward—your effectiveness could come to a standstill. Or worse, you could permanently damage your ability to lead people...when you are able to discern a prime opportunity and take initiative to seize it at the right time, success is inevitable."

On Sunday afternoon I sat down to write my letter of resignation to my beloved Bryan College. I cried and was restless all right. The next morning as I was having my quiet time, Dianne came to sit down with me for our morning prayer time and saw tears in my eyes and then she started to weep also. We love Bryan so much and believe that the current administration is so headed in the right direction that we thought we would be here until we retired.

Why on earth would we move up north where it is so cold, take a cut in salary, and only be guaranteed a salary for six months? Those of you who have made decisions like this know exactly why and how: Because God has told us to do it!

Being part of the Bryan College administration has truly been one of the greatest joys of my life. Dr. Livesay has this ship moving steadily in the right direction. Please pray for Dr. Livesay and the board of trustees as they make decisions directed by the Holy Spirit. He, the administration, and the faculty, like you, have a definite *propensity* to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. May God continue to richly bless you as you obey Him and may God continue to bless Bryan College. "By our motto we firmly stand, Christ above all!" 🙏

Lion Tracks

Summer 2004

70's

BETH (WILLIS) RIGGINS, '73x, was selected Teacher of the Year for 2004 at Paragon Mills Elementary School in Nashville, Tenn. She teaches third grade English language learners.

BILLY GRAHAM, '75, is working toward his Level 5 Boardmanship recognition by the Tennessee School Boards Association. Billy, a member of the Rhea County Board of Education for four years, has completed work on the first four levels by spending hundreds of hours in classes and seminars. The requirements for Level 5 are such that not many board members reach that designation because of the effort required. Billy's wife, **JANE (SCOTT)**, '72, is a teacher at Rhea County High School.

MARTHA (WALKER), '75, **MCCLARNDN** writes to let us know she is a grandmother six times over – all boys – with the birth of her newest grandchild. She is completing her 30th year of teaching school and is dreaming of retirement. Her husband, Tom, has taught 38 years. Their son, Daniel, is a senior in high school. Martha asks her friends from the Class of 1975 to contact her at tlmac03@earthlink.net.

DEBBIE (GAINER) WILLEY and **DAN DECKER**, both '76, ran the 2004 Country Music Marathon in Nashville, Tenn., as members

of Team ASK (Athletes for Special Kids). Special Kids is a non-profit Christian organization providing outpatient nursing, rehabilitation, and social services for medically fragile children. The team raised more than \$111,000 for their programs.



Debbie Willey and Dan Decker

JAN (BUCKHANNON), '78, **JASSD** was selected the adult winner of the "Courage" character education award in the Rhea County Department of Education's character education program in April. Jan is a fourth-grade teacher at Graysville Elementary in Graysville, Tenn.

80's

CHRISTIE (BRADLEY) MURPHEY, **CHERYL (WILLIAMS) WATSON**, and **SANDY (HAMMARBURG) OSTMAN**, all '83, enjoyed their own class reunion at homecoming 2003. They were suitemates for three years at Bryan, in the same suite on the third floor of Arnold. They missed their fourth

suitemate, **PIPPA (MAXWELL) ASKER**, '84, who was with them for two years.



TOM, '84, and **DAWN (SHRIVER)**, '85, **GARDNER** announce the birth of their third child, Luke Frederick, on March 1. Luke weighed 8 lbs., 3 oz., and was 20 inches long. Luke was welcomed by sister AmberRose, 10, and brother Benjamin, 3 1/2. Tom teaches science and coaches volleyball at Sale Creek High School, and Dawn home schools AmberRose as well as teaches art at Rhea County Academy. The Gardners live in Dayton, Tenn.



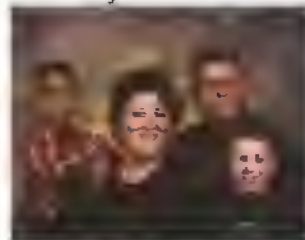
AmberRose, Benjamin, and Luke Gardner.

ERIC ALLEN, '85, has been promoted to vice president of the Healthcare Convention and Exhibitors Association by The Kellen Co., the second-largest professional association management firm in the United States. Eric has been with Kellen for 11 years. He also has been elected president and chairman of the Belgian Evangelical Mission USA board. Eric and his wife, Karen, live in Norcross, Ga., with their daughters Jessalyn, 7, and Kristen, 4.

VICKY (MOHLER), '86, and Michael **DYE** announce the birth of their second child, Ezra Michael Mohler Dye, on Feb. 25. Ezra weighed 8 lbs., 9 oz., and was 19 inches long. He joins sister Fiona, 2. Vicky is taking a break from teaching English as a second language at St. Louis Community College, and Michael is completing his Master's degree in theology at

Covenant Seminary.

KELLY (GIVEN), '87, and Scott **CROUCH** live in Rock Hill, S.C., where Scott manages an express car wash and lubricating business and is partner in a sign business. Kelly works part-time as a resident services coordinator for Carolina Village, a continuing care retirement community. She also directs the women's ministries at their church. Their sons are Phillip and Sammy.



Scott and Kelly Crouch, Phillip and Sammy.

Jon and **ANNA (SMITH)**, '89, **VICKERS** moved to Knoxville, Tenn., from Raleigh, N.C., in February. Jon was laid off last May while they were expecting child number four. In September he found a job in Kentucky. They sold their house within nine days, but after a week and a half he was laid off again because the company lost a huge contract. Fortunately, the family had not moved, so they lived with friends in Raleigh. On Oct. 2, 2003, Bethany Hannah was born, weighing 8 lbs., and was 20 in. long. She joins sisters Abby, 5, and Bekah, 2, and brother Josh, 3 1/2. Jon found the job in Knoxville just before Thanksgiving, and Anna and the kids stayed in Raleigh until February. They'd love to find out who else lives in their area. Her email address is anna.vickers@comcast.net.



Abby, Bekah, Josh, and Bethany Vickers.

90's

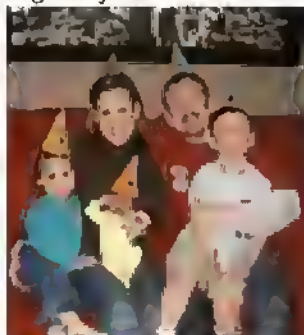
MARK, '92, and **NATALIE (CAWODD)**, '97, **CRUVER** announce the birth of their

daughter, Joalle Rachel, on April 23. Joalle weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz., and was 20 inches long. She joins big brothers Seth, 5, and Andrew, 3.

Daryl and JEANNIE (JONES), '91, SMITH announce the birth of their son, Philip Colan, on Jan. 15. Philip weighed 6 lbs, 7 oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. Jeannie is a 1st lieutenant in the Air Force stationed at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

RONA HALCOMB, '91, and Richard Kirby were married March 27, in Clinton, S.C.

CHARLES, '98, and BROOKE (SHEPHERD), '97, FOX live in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where Charles is pastor of media and communications at Carolina Forest Community Church. During the past year, Charles and Brooke have become foster parents and are caring for three foster children, Damien, 4; Angel, 3; and Robyn, 8 weeks. Charles also enjoys coaching his U-17 girls' club soccer team and Brooke absolutely loves being a stay-at-home mom.



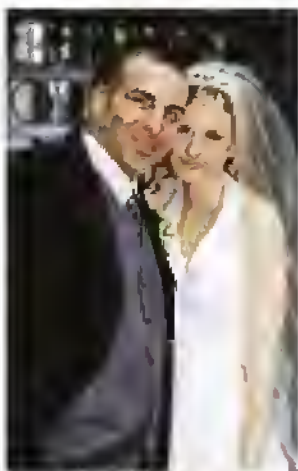
Charles and Brooke Fox, Damien, Angel, and Robyn.

OAVID, '98, and ANGIE (SKERJANEC), '99, WILKINSON, with their sons Jonathan and Kobie, have returned to the United States from South Africa to represent Dream for Africa, an organization focused on preventing AIDS through churches and schools. David will seek to mobilize 1,500 Americans to serve with Dream for Africa in 2004, and 5,000 to serve in 2005. David may be contacted by phone at 770-886-1821 to speak about this new venture.

CHRIS TRIOLO, '98, has achieved the National Board for Certified Teachers award, and was named Teacher of the Year in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District for 2004. Chris teaches high school science in Charlotte, N.C., and is pursuing a Master's degree at Winthrop University.

CRYSTAL TURNER, '99, and Eric Iseldyke were married Feb.

14, in Nashville, Tenn., where the couple lives. Eric works in sales for Bellsouth and Crystal is a freelance photographer and also works as an executive sales assistant at Jefferson Pilot Financial.



Eric and Crystal Iseldyke

BRYAN PRUDHOMME, '99, and his wife, April, received their Doctor of Medicine degrees from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn., on May 1.

MARINA CRUZ, '99, and Kevin Kress were married March 29, 2003, in Chattanooga, Tenn. Members of the wedding party included MELODY (OWENS) SIMMONS, '98, and JONATHAN FICKLEY, '86. Marina and Kevin live in Chattanooga.



Marina and Kevin Kress

attendants included Bryan alumni STEPHANIE WISE, '00; TAMMY (DOE) JARREN, '00; BALLARD; DARA BALLARD, '00; and ANITA SHAFER, '00x. Sheri is finishing her fourth year of teaching first and second grade at Marshall Area Christian School. Joshua is a lab technician at ADM in Marshall. The couple lives in Marshall, Minn.



Joshua and Sheri Sternke

IRIS (GRIFFIOEN), '00, and Erik MEULMAN announce the birth of their daughter, Anna, on April 8.

KRISTI (SIMMONS), '01, and MASON HUOLOW, '04x, announce the birth of their son, Jonathan Thomas, on April 13. He weighed 8 lbs., 10, oz.

ROBIN (WEDEKIND), '02, SARIGUMBA has been selected to serve on the Olympic 2004 Sports Massage Team in Athens, Greece, for 10 days in August. There will be no compensation, so she would appreciate your prayers as she looks for financial support to fund this opportunity of a lifetime.

ADRIAN DEWHURST, '02, and David Holt were married Dec. 20, 2003. They live in Cullowhee, N.C., where Adrian teaches high school science. David is a former land surveyor who is studying to be a teacher. They live in an old farmhouse on Oavid's family farm.

KELLEY (WESOLOWSKI), '02x, and Jonathan KROEKER have settled in Cuiaba, Brazil, where they are serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Kelley has begun learning Portuguese, and Jonathan is getting reacquainted with missionary families he had known while growing up there.

BROOKE WILSON, '03, coached her girls' varsity basketball team at The Master's Academy in Oviedo, Fla., to repeat as the 2004 district champions this spring. Brooke also completed personal training certification with

the Exercise Safety Association, and is focusing on developing sport-specific training programs for athletes who train at the YMCA in Oviedo.

WHITNEY MCCHRISTIAN, '04x, and Jonathan Poitevin were married Oct. 11, 2003, and are living in Hendersonville, N.C. Whitney works as insurance coordinator in a dental office, and Jonathan joined the Navy in March. He will be stationed in Chicago until September, then they will move wherever he is assigned.

With The Lord

LOU ROUGH WOUTHER, '97H, professor of botany and zoology from 1951-'62, died Dec. 26, 2003. She is survived by her husband, Dr. GERALD WOUTHER, '97H, of South Lyon, Mich.

James E. Giesemann, 81, former chemistry professor, died April 1, in Sale Creek, Tenn. He is survived by two daughters, three sons, two brothers, a sister, and a grandchild.

NRB Chief Convocation Speaker



Dr. Frank Wright, president of the National Religious Broadcasters, will deliver Bryan's convocation address as the academic year begins Aug. 25.

The more than 1,500 members of NRB share a vision to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to transform culture through sound biblical teaching, and to preserve religious liberty in the world of electronic media.

Before joining NRB, Dr. Wright served as founding executive director of the Center for Christian Statesmanship, an outreach to members of Congress and their staff. He also was associated for nearly 20 years with Dr. D. James Kennedy at Coral Ridge Ministries.

Bryan President Dr. Stephen D. Livesay said, "We are delighted that Dr. Wright will be our convocation speaker. He shares with Bryan College a vision for transforming our culture and our world by communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His insights into God's Word and today's world will be a challenging beginning for what I believe will be an exciting year at the college."

00's

SHERI TILLEMANS, '00, and Joshua Sternke were married July 5, 2003, in Marshall, Minn. Sheri's

A higher form.
of higher education



Bryan

There's a reason why *U.S. News & World Report* calls us one of America's Best Colleges.

For starters, more than half of our students graduated in the top of their class. On campus, our average class is just 12. And there's one professor for every 14 Bryan students. That means you're guaranteed individual attention from professors that know and care about you.

And, with more than 40 academic programs to choose from, you'll be enlightened both spiritually and academically. But don't take our word for it—come see Bryan College for yourself.

We'll light the way.

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Dayton, TN 37321-7000

(800) 277-9522
ext. 800
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See you in October!



H O M E C O M I N G

OCTOBER 1 – 3, 2004

Class Reunions during this year's Homecoming are:

Class of 1954 and all preceding classes, classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, and 1999.

There will be a special twenty-fifth reunion banquet for the class of 1979.

Griffith and Gray Reunion Concert
Featuring "The Best of Love" and other special guests.

Be looking for your registration packet to arrive in your mailbox soon.

Giving back is a benefit to the Wassons



Condon and Mary Wasson

One of Bryan's first students has discovered a way to give back to the college that can help him now and help strengthen Bryan for the future.

Condon Wasson came to Bryan when it opened in the old Rhea Central High School building in 1930. "I graduated from Spring City High School in 1929 and went to Tennessee Wesleyan one year. It cost \$600, but my father couldn't afford to send me back, so I came home."

That fall, he and his sister drove from their home in Rhea Springs, near Spring City, to Dayton to attend Bryan. "My sister, Ruth, and I signed notes to attend, and we were to repay them after we got jobs," he said.

He stayed at Bryan only one year before transferring to Tennessee Technological University, where he majored in math and science. "I wanted to play basketball," he explained. "I think Dean Ryther was trying to start a team at Bryan, but we never got to play anyone." His math teacher that year was Dr. Rudd, who became Bryan's third president.

"My one year at Bryan College got me started. Bryan made it possible for me to continue my college education—my sister's also," he said.

After graduating, Mr. Wasson taught for a year before being named principal of Spring City High School in 1935. For the rest of his career he served as a principal.

While Mr. Wasson was gaining experience as an administrator the young lady who became his wife was establishing her own career as an elementary school teacher. Mary Wasson also graduated from Tennessee Tech after having grown up in Spring City. "We never met," Mary explained. "We just grew up together." Condon added, "It was always Mary and Condon, Condon and Mary." Even so, they waited until 1941 to marry, and are looking forward to celebrating their 63rd anniversary this November.

Mr. Wasson became principal of Rhea Central High School in 1939, serving until 1942 when he entered the Army and served as a meteorologist until 1949. It was during his first service at Rhea Central that he began hiring Bryan graduates as teachers.

He retired in 1972 after serving for 12 years as principal at Dayton City School, "the best job I ever had." Mary retired as a junior high school teacher at Sale Creek School.

"Since he's retired, he's gotten so many letters from former students saying 'thank you' and 'how much you meant to me. You got me started on the right road.'"

Recently, the couple saw an advertisement about charitable gift annuities and thought they should check into that type of investment. "We were trying to get our house in order so our nieces and nephew won't have to handle anything when we are gone," Mary said. "We're trying to get things where we want them now, and we don't want them to have to worry about probate and all the costs associated with that."

They pointed out that the income from the annuity they purchased from Bryan College is much higher than what they were receiving from their certificates of deposit. "We get a check each month – it's a big help," Condon said. "It's a good investment for anybody. I never have forgotten what Bryan College did for me. I have always wanted to do something for Bryan, and this was a great opportunity for us to help Bryan and increase our own income at the same time."

And Mary added, "We knew what we wanted to do, and we have the pleasure of doing it while we're living." 🌱

If you think a charitable gift annuity might be beneficial to you, please contact Jim Barth, director of development, at 423-775-7280 or by email: barthji@bryan.edu. He will be happy to discuss your needs and provide specific information.

"This was a great opportunity for us to help Bryan and increase our own income at the same time."

Holy Land Tour

Bryan College Alumni & Friends Study
Tour of Israel and Jordan

October 10-24, 2004

Hosted by Bryan College
and Arbel Communications

With Bryan College
Bible Faculty and Staff

Yes, this year in Jerusalem! From the shores of the Sea of Galilee to the winding, cobblestone streets of Jerusalem, explore the land of Abraham, David, and Jesus. Bryan College's alumni office wants you to come with them to see the Holy Land. This life-changing experience will help you increase your understanding of the Word of God... and draw you closer to the God of the Word. This exceptional tour is open to all alumni and friends of Bryan College. Alumni serving in the ministry should especially consider bringing members of their congregation with them. It will change your life and theirs.

This all-inclusive tour includes all roundtrip airfare from Hartsfield International airport in Atlanta to Israel. You will stay in some of the best and most unique deluxe accommodations in Israel and Jordan. All meals will be included as well as tips, gratuities, entrance fees and visas. The price for this deluxe tour is \$2,997 per person based on double occupancy. Space is limited so call or e-mail today to reserve your place on this incredible tour.



You will visit many of the most significant biblical sites as we open the Word of God right in the places where it was written. We will also reflect on the last days and passion of our Lord. You will also see the Bible come to life from the daily teachings from our guides and devotionals from Bryan faculty and staff.

On this tour you will also have the unique opportunity to see the rose-red city of Petra, hidden for centuries and carved out of the side of the mountains of ancient Edom.

For more information or a registration form contact Arbel Communications at arbelcommunications@yahoo.com or call 423-517-4417.

Prices are subject to change without notice. Due to changes in airline rates, in that case, you will be notified in advance of the change. A deposit of \$500 must accompany the registration form, of which \$250 is non-refundable. This price does not include items of a personal nature, such as meals or flights from your home to Atlanta's Hartsfield airport.

Christ Above All



P.O. Box 7000,
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